

10

OFFICIAL CALL
FIFTH NATIONAL CONSERVATION CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 18, 19 AND 20, 1913

TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Protection of our forests and our waterways is the great Conservation issue before us today. Our forests and our water powers are at stake.

Within the next few months, the fight for the protection of our forests and our waterways will be in the Congress of the United States and in State Legislatures. Now is the time for all persons who believe in Conservation to get together and speak in no uncertain terms on these questions. Therefore, the Fifth National Conservation Congress is called to meet in Washington, D. C., November 18, 19 and 20, 1913. It will be an open forum for the discussion of all sides of the questions involved. All are welcome who wish to help work out these problems for the public good.

THE PERSONNEL

HONORARY

The President of the United States.
The Vice-President of the United States.
The Speaker of the House of Representatives.
The Cabinet.
The United States Senate and House of Representatives.
The Supreme Court of the United States.
The Representatives of Foreign Governments.
The Governors of the States and Territories.
The Lieutenant-Governors of the States and Territories.
The Speakers of the State Houses of Representatives.
The State Officers.
The Mayors of Cities.
The County Commissioners.
The Presidents of State and other Universities and Colleges.
The Officers and Members of the National Conservation Association.
The Officers and Members of the National Conservation Commission.
The Officers and Members of the Conservation Committees of National Organizations.
The Officers and Members of the State Conservation Association.
The Representatives of the Press.

OFFICIAL

Fifteen Delegates appointed by the Governor of each State and Territory.
Five Delegates appointed by the Mayor of each city with a population of 25,000 or more.
Three Delegates appointed by the Mayor of each city with a population of less than 25,000.
Three Delegates appointed by each Board of County Commissioners.
Five Delegates appointed by each National Organization concerned in the work of Conservation.
Five Delegates appointed by each State or Interstate organization concerned in the work of Conservation.
Three Delegates appointed by each Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade Commercial Club, or other local organization concerned in the work of Conservation.
Two Delegates appointed by each State or other University or College and by each Agricultural College or Experiment Station.
Officers of the National Conservation Congress.

Conservation originated with forestry. It took form through plans for the protection of the Nation's waterways. These two ideas suggested the first Conservation meeting, the Conference of Governors at the White House, five years ago. Now facing the greatest contest this movement has known—the fight to save our forests and our water powers to the people—the Congress comes back to the seat of the Nation's Government to hold its meeting this year.

As a place of meeting, Washington affords greatest opportunity for broad discussion of the questions at issue. At the National Capital, the Congress will be in close touch with the heads of the great divisions of the Government charged with the handling of legislative and administrative affairs affecting the country's natural resources. It will have access to the vast fund of official information on these subjects.

OBJECTS OF THE CONGRESS

Chief among the objects for which the National Conservation Congress was created is to "AFFORD AN AGENCY THROUGH WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY MAY FRAME POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES AFFECTING THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF THEIR RESOURCES TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS." At Washington, therefore, the action of the Congress will have weight and influence not possible at other places of meeting.

This year's Congress thus affords an opportunity for service not enjoyed since the historic Conference of Governors at the White House. At that Conference the Conservation sentiment was crystallized into a movement. At this year's Congress it is expected that the Conservation movement will be shaped into definite recommendations for legislation by both State and Federal authorities.

Assurances already received indicate that those attending this year's Congress will have opportunity to hear some of the country's greatest leaders. The President of the United States is expected to address the Congress. Members of the Cabinet, Senators and Representatives and Chiefs of the Government Bureaus are also expected to be heard. Every State will be represented and practically all the great National and State organizations.

The social features of this year's Congress will be out of the ordinary. Reception of the delegates by the President of the United States is one of the pleasant functions counted upon.

REDUCED RAILROAD FARES

The Trunk Line Association embracing the territory tributary to the place of meeting has granted a round trip rate of one and three-fifths fare on the certificate

plan. All the other passenger associations are expected to grant similar reduced fares.

To secure advantage of the reduced fares, delegates, when purchasing tickets, must secure a standard certificate from their local railway agents. These certificates are to be signed by a representative of the Congress validating the ticket for return trip. No reduced fares can be had unless obtained in this manner.

REGISTRATION, MEMBERSHIP, ETC.

The customary registration fee of one dollar will this year entitle the delegate to regular membership in the Congress and will give him without further cost, a copy of the Addresses and Proceedings of the Congress, together with the Congress badge and all other member's privileges. This is the first year the Congress has been able to announce that the dollar registration fee includes membership in the organization. This nominal fee is devoted to publishing the Proceedings of the Congress. The Congress invites your membership in order that it may enroll you and keep in touch with you in its work throughout the year.

PLACES OF MEETING

The Congress has reserved not only the great Assembly Room and the smaller assembly room at the New Willard Hotel, but also the entire tenth floor, including all the committee rooms as quarters for smaller meetings. In addition to this, one of the Washington theatres may be utilized for some of the sessions.

INFORMATION

A Convention Bulletin Board, where all important announcements will be made, will be maintained at the Congress Headquarters, at the New Willard Hotel.

INVITATIONS AND DELEGATES

EVERY INDIVIDUAL INTERESTED IN ANY PHASE OF CONSERVATION IS INVITED TO THE WASHINGTON MEETING. The officers of the Congress would be glad if all such persons might come as official delegates appointed by the Governor or by some organization, but whether they do or not they will receive a cordial welcome and will be entitled to participation in all events incident to the Congress. Every organization concerned in Conservation, whether national, state or local, is entitled to appoint official delegates, with an equal number of alternates. So, whether or not an organization be specially invited to appoint delegates, the Congress wishes it distinctly understood that EVERY ORGANIZATION CONCERNED IN CONSERVATION INTO WHOSE HANDS THIS CALL MAY FALL IS ENTITLED TO APPOINT DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS.

FIFTH NATIONAL CONSERVATION CONGRESS

Thomas R. Shipp, Executive Secretary,
New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Charles Lathrop Pack, President
E. Lee Worsham, Chairman Executive Committee

IMPORTANCE OF FOREST CONSERVATION

The Fifth National Conservation Congress is to be devoted largely to forest conservation, because of the national importance of the subject in its many phases. Public interest is involved, because upon the proper solution of the various problems depends the cost of the wood without which our civilization would decline; the perpetuation of the timber supply; the development of hydro-electric power; the utilization of non-agricultural lands; the availability of water for irrigation; the preservation of forest areas for health and recreation, and many other developments essential alike to every citizen from the lumberman to the man who owns neither a tree nor a foot of land.

Here are some of the reasons why the Congress puts forestry foremost at this year's meeting.

Forest fires continue to destroy lives by hundreds and tangible assets averaging upwards of fifty million dollars annually, and do incalculable damage to soil, water, and young growth.

Forest insects destroy enough timber every year to finance the construction program of the navy.

Floods follow forest denudation, and the disasters of this year can be traced in part, at least, to non-forested watersheds.

We are using three times as much timber as grows each year, and worst of all are utilizing only forty to seventy per cent of each tree cut down; while fire destroys the equivalent of each year's new growth.

The tax laws in most states do not recognize forests as a crop to be perpetuated, but act to destroy the timber resources for the enrichment of the present to the poverty of the future.

The preservative treatment of timber is a potent factor in conservation, since it reduces the consumption and makes inferior species available. At present about 20% of the cross-ties, but less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of 1% of the lumber used, is treated.

Despite the obvious public need, there is strong opposition to the de-

velopment of a safe national forest policy.

While the future is not secure, definite progress has been made in the following ways:

Forest fire associations among timberland owners, by publicity and systematic organization, are materially reducing forest fire losses.

The Federal Government controls, on the National Forests, about one-fifth of the standing timber, and by proper utilization and protection makes it a present asset and a perpetual resource.

A majority of the forested states have organizations which are doing effective work in forest protection and education.

Two states, Pennsylvania and Louisiana, have this year enacted forest taxation laws based on correct principles, and other states are agitating similar legislation.

While intensive forest management, on the European plan, has not been applied on private holdings, the lumbermen are slowly realizing that their business is furthered by co-operation with public interests. Forestry and lumbering are receiving mutual recognition, which will make for forest conservation under the combined stimulus of education and economic development.

There is fairly well defined public interest in forest conservation, but it must be stimulated to the point of forcing necessary reforms.

The National Conservation Congress seeks, through education and investigation, to establish a sound forest policy, both in the broad national aspects and in essential details. and to support and strengthen the progressive forest work now being done. The Forestry Committee, through its sub-committees and affiliation with the American Forestry Association, has unequaled facilities for effective investigation, and wide publicity and education. With your help it desires to do more and do it better.